

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

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## Postwar Problems Of Allies Are Studied

**Willkie Urges Immediate Consideration of Issues of Reconstruction**

**RELATE TO "PEOPLE'S WAR"**

**Raising Living Standards, Future of Colonies, World Organization Among Big Issues**

If the around-the-world trip of Wendell L. Willkie accomplished nothing else, it served to focus attention upon what is perhaps the greatest issue of our time. That issue is simply this: What are the war aims of the United Nations? What kind of world do we hope to establish when the war is over? In a word, what are we fighting for?

So far there has been a great deal more discussion about what we are fighting *against* than about what we are fighting *for*. This is indeed a "war of survival," a war to preserve those things without which we do not hold life worth living. We are fighting against tyranny, against the destruction of our freedom and democracy.

But there have not been many specific statements about the kind of world we wish to see established when the war is over and the peace treaties are written. It is true that President Roosevelt has outlined the "Four Freedoms" as objectives to be sought after, and that the Atlantic Charter sets forth eight principles which should guide the United Nations in making the peace settlement.

### Mr. Willkie's Position

Beyond the principles contained in the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter, there has been no official outline of war aims or objectives. In fact, there is not yet agreement among the individual members of the United Nations as to the kind of peace settlement we wish. That is why Mr. Willkie's trip and his statements are regarded as so important.

Mr. Willkie is of the opinion that many of the pressing problems of the future should be discussed now, before the war is over. In Chungking, for example, he said: "Some say these subjects should be hushed until victory is won. Exactly the reverse is true. Sincere efforts to find progressive solutions now will bring strength to our cause. Remember that opponents of social change always urge delay because of some present crisis."

As a matter of fact, Mr. Willkie believes that our failure to outline in greater detail our war aims is actually hampering the war effort of the United Nations. Again at Chungking he said that he found certain things common to all the countries he visited on his trip. One of these was a widespread doubt about "the readiness of the leading democracies of the world to stand up and be counted upon for the freedom of

(Concluded on page 6)



Snow, Snow, Beautiful Snow

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

## Their Part and Yours

By Walter E. Myer

Byron Darnton, correspondent of the New York Times, one of the best known and most respected of war reporters, was killed a few days ago on the New Guinea front. In the issue of the paper that reported his death there appeared one of his last articles, a story of the fighting he had been witnessing. In this article Mr. Darnton spoke highly of the spirit of our men and of their determination, not only to win the war, but to see to it that nothing of the kind would happen again. He said:

"The correspondent in this war, unlike his predecessor of twenty-five years ago, can find manifold evidence that the victory will be well used. Young men who are doing our fighting are, to a surprising extent, thinking about the war's end not only in terms of getting back home to their wives and sweethearts and getting away from danger and discomfort. They are thinking also in terms of what kind of world we shall have after peace comes. They are thinking realistically. . . ."

"A man can climb the high hill near the airdrome just up the road and watch the bombers and fighters go forth. He can see the yellow bombs being loaded in their racks. He can see maintenance men keeping the strips in shape and chow trucks bearing food to pea-shooter pilots on the alert. He can see ambulances rush up to home-coming planes."

"From the high hill near the airdrome a man can see his countrymen building with blood, sweat, and toil the firm resolution that their sons shall not die under bombs but shall have peace, because they will know how to preserve peace."

If the men at the front, thousands of miles from home, in the midst of hardship and danger and death, are giving thought to the problems of establishing a permanent peace, we who are at home, we who have every opportunity to study the problems of peace and reconstruction, should redouble our energies toward the solution of these problems. The men at the front see the results of past inattention to these problems. The story of failure to establish world stability is written in blood. We must not fail again, but we will fail unless all of us read and think and plan and talk about the means of winning an enduring victory—unless we study the problems involved until we are able to act wisely.

These are the great problems of our generation. They must be grappled with by the boys who soon are to join the soldiers at the front and by those who are to stay at home, by the girls as well as the boys. The fact that so many millions of the men of the nation are in the armed services throws added responsibilities upon the women, and one of these is the responsibility of citizenship in a crisis era. Women must assume unaccustomed political duties. Like the men at the front they must, as they go about their daily work, be helping to plan for a world which shall be free and safe and peaceful.

## Weaknesses Seen On Nazi Home Front

**Hitler and Aides Use Propaganda to Bolster Sagging Morale of German People**

**FEAR CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**

**Consequences of Defeat Stressed to Keep People in Line with Nazi Regime**

Through the thick veil of censorship a few items of news have penetrated which indicate that all may not be well on the German home front. The first indication of possible trouble was noted in Hitler's latest speech in which he adopted a strangely defensive tone and in which he warned Germans of dire consequences for treason. Heads of governments do not generally issue warnings about treason if there is complete loyalty among the people.

Hitler's two henchmen, Goering and Goebbels, have gone out of their way to bolster German morale. It was only recently that Goering reassured the people that this winter the Germans would be fed, even if the rest of Europe had to starve. Then, only last week, Propaganda Minister Goebbels changed his tune from the past boastfulness of German successes and of glowing promises of a rosy future to one of foreboding about the future. He warned the German people of the consequences of losing the war:

### Campaign of Fear

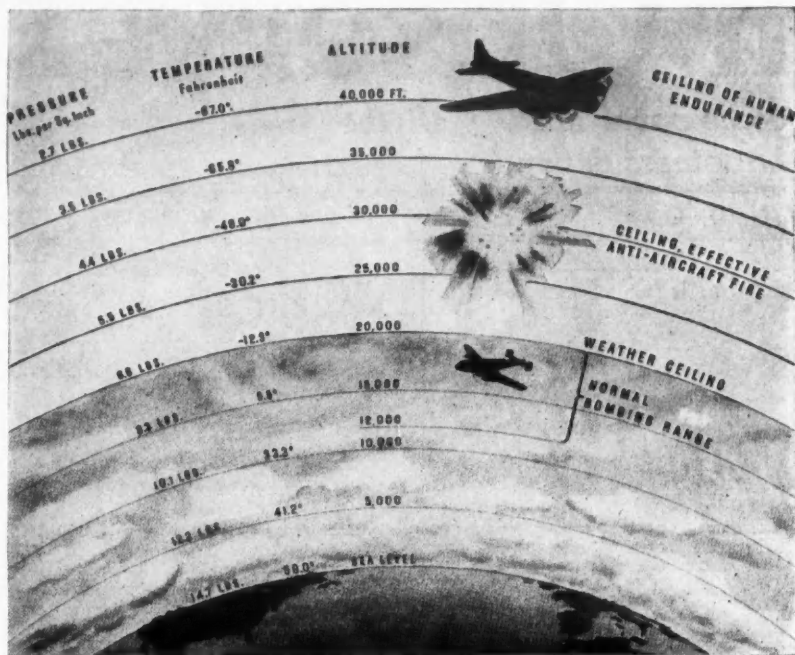
"Should we lose this war we would forfeit more than our national history. It is no longer a question of simple ideals, throne, or altars; it is a question not only of our right to live but of the very possibility of our continuing to live."

Added to these developments comes another of equal significance. During the last few days, there have come a number of reports from inside Germany to the effect that the Nazi government is planning to denounce the international agreement, known as the Geneva Convention, which regulates the treatment of prisoners of war. Under the terms of this agreement, which most of the nations at war have signed, prisoners of war are treated according to fixed rules—rules for the most part which provide for humane care and a minimum of cruelty. If Germany now denounces the agreement, she will be free to treat Allied prisoners of war with the extreme barbarism and bestiality of which the Nazis are capable.

The Nazis have never been renowned for their kindness or gentle manners, but the agreement dealing with prisoners of war has had a certain restraining influence upon their brutality. Why, it may be asked, are they now preparing to take the step of openly denouncing a treaty which they have hitherto pretended to observe?

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## The Vast Ocean of Air

MAN is a deep-sea animal who lives at the bottom of an ocean of air. This ocean is as much a part of his world as the ground beneath his feet. Through the air man gets weather, which underlies climate. The fertility of the soil, the flow of streams, the seasons of the year—these are governed by climate and consequently man's daily activities depend as much upon the ocean of air as they do upon soil and water.

During the last half century, and especially during the last few years, the ocean of air has assumed added importance. This is so because man has learned how to fly. He can travel through the ocean of air, he fights in it, he carries goods through it. Every day more and more of his activities are being lifted off the ground and into the air.

Because of this tremendous development in human history we need to have a knowledge of the nature and behavior of the atmosphere. The science which gives us this knowledge is the science of meteorology.

Our world is therefore not a ball made up only of land and water—a ball which is about 8,000 miles in diameter. It is really a ball which is at least 50,000 miles in diameter and which is made up of different substances.

The center of our world is the *geosphere*, and is composed of rock and mineral matter—the solid part of the earth. Around this geosphere is a shell of water known as the *hydrosphere*. In various places the geosphere protrudes through the hydrosphere to form the continents and islands.

Above and surrounding the geosphere and hydrosphere is a thick layer of gases known as the *atmosphere*. It has form and substance just as much as the geosphere and hydrosphere. It has been well said, in fact, that "the atmosphere is as much part of our world as the rind is part of a grapefruit."

Man lives not on the outer surface of this planet, but somewhere near its center—on the geosphere but under the atmosphere. Half of his world is over his head. The atmosphere, moreover, does not consist of a single shell about the earth. Instead, there are three shells which fit together as layers—the troposphere, the stratosphere, and the ionosphere.

The *troposphere* is the inner shell, or the layer next to the earth. It averages about seven or eight miles in depth, but is not the same depth at all points. Over the equator, it extends to about 11 miles above the surface of the earth. In the latitude of Chicago or New York, its ceiling is about seven miles. Over the poles, it descends to seven miles or below—perhaps to four.

The troposphere is the zone of vigorous air movement, with winds and storms of many kinds, and with clouds, fogs, haze, and dust. There are also considerable changes in air pressure and in temperature. The latter varies greatly, being determined by the temperature of the earth's surface below. The troposphere's temperature also decreases steadily the higher one goes. The ceiling of the troposphere is called the tropopause.

The *stratosphere*, or middle shell, averages about 40 miles in depth, and is usually free from clouds, storms, smoke, dust, and water vapor. However, in the lower part of the stratosphere there is sometimes a little moisture in the form of fine frost crystals, and these mass together, making feathery clouds.

Unlike the troposphere, the stratosphere has more constant temperatures, and for that reason is sometimes called a zone of unchanging temperatures. There are, of course, differences in temperature, depending on the temperature of the earth at the various points below. The stratosphere's ceiling is the stratopause.

The *ionosphere* is the third, or outer shell. It extends into space for nobody knows how many miles. The air up there becomes unbelievably "thin," and there is a possibility that at the extreme heights the particles of air may be spaced many feet, even miles, apart. The temperature is probably absolute zero—total absence of heat.

Although each of the three layers of atmosphere contains some air, three-fourths of all the air is found in the troposphere and less than one-fourth is in the stratosphere. This leaves only a tiny fraction for the ionosphere. If all the air that is thus spread out could be compressed into a single density, it would make a uniform layer five miles deep around the earth.

### A Book in the News

## The Stalin-Hitler Duel for Europe

RUSSIA has ceased to be the bland-faced sphinx she was before June of 1941. Since that date her policy, both foreign and domestic, has been the logical offspring of a single idea—beating the Germans, thoroughly, completely and for all time. But much of the diplomatic juggling of prewar days still remains to be explained.

Before the Nazi thrust of two summers ago, Russia was the world's Great Puzzle. She negotiated with Britain and France, then made a pact with Hitler. She protested great fondness for the Japanese, and continued her quiet stream of supplies to China. She alienated communist sympathizers all over the world by the 1939 attack on Finland. She snatched territory with an imperialist facility which bewildered the liberals of Britain and America. Why?

John Scott, former Moscow correspondent, has written a book of answers. Many will find his *Duel for Europe* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$3.50) almost as perplexing as the original facts, for he does not fall into any of the usual hindsight patterns.

As a man who lived and worked in Russia for 10 years, who married a Russian girl, and raised his children under the Russian system, he might be expected to turn out a complete apologia for all things Soviet. But he does not. Neither, however, does he reveal himself as the disillusioned idealist.

His analysis is incomparably richer because of his intimate, fairly long-range connection with the subject. He is able to combine the touch of the cosmopolitan historian with that of a man writing a critical letter-to-the-editor in his own home town. Which, it must be admitted, has its advantages over the hasty impressionism of the political tourist trade.

He sees the last 10 years as a gigantic duel between Stalin and Hitler, with control of continental Europe as the stake. Britain and France, according to his view, encouraged the grim rivalry, hoping to let the two nations weaken each other and thus save themselves. On the other side, Russia and Germany played the same game, Hitler hoping the specter of bolshevism would keep Russia and the democracies apart, and Stalin counting on his own neutrality in a mutually destructive capitalist war.

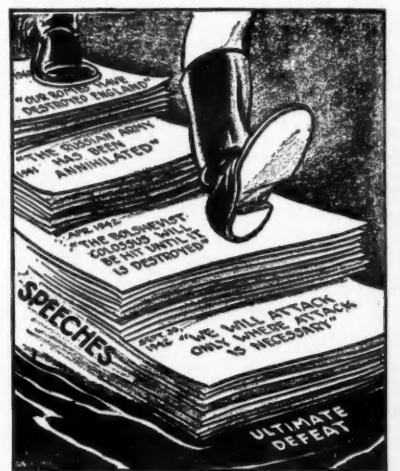


RUSSELL IN LOS ANGELES TIMES  
SoViet!

This is old-fashioned balance of power politics, and if Mr. Scott has a criticism of the Russians it is that they played the game ruthlessly and well. He says that if Stalin had not engineered the war on Finland, the Russians could not have held off Hitler as they have. Still there is distaste in his account of the artificial "people's government" Russia claimed to be defending, and he pronounces the whole episode "unworthy of the Russian people."

The moral conflict between right action and realistically necessary action appears again in his discussion of the incorporation of the Baltic countries. Aggression, yes, but "if Britain and France had adopted a similar policy toward Holland and Belgium—that is, gone in and garrisoned them rather than making a fetish of the independence and neutrality which they could not defend—Germany might never have been able to break through as she did in the spring of 1940."

As for the Russo-German pact, Mr. Scott reports that almost to the out-



GOLDENBERG CARTOON  
Hitler's descent

break of hostilities both parties kept up at least the economic end. The exchange of goods was mutually beneficial and highly satisfying—Germany needed raw materials and Russia needed manufactured goods. The temporary friendship left Germany free to carry on her war in the west and gave Russia time to build up her defenses. According to *Duel for Europe*, both hoped to keep the arrangement going for some time.

But it turned out to be a case of mutual underestimation. Stalin had thought Britain and France stronger than they were. He had expected their resistance to sap Hitler's force for a much longer time, and much more effectively. On the other hand, the Nazis had not thought Russia capable of amassing her strength so quickly. June 1941 was inevitable.

Scott, who seems to admire Stalin deeply, credits the Russian leader with great foresight. From safeguarding much of his industry behind the Urals to accurately gauging liberal opinion in the outside world, the author believes Stalin knew what he was doing. The Soviet chieftain was unconcerned about what the people of Britain and America thought of Finland, or the Baltic states or the dallying with Germany and Japan. He knew that when the battle was joined, they would be in his camp because they had no choice.





Capacity for hard work, suffering, and sacrifice, has been the strength of China

WASA PHOTO

## A Letter From China

We are quoting below excerpts from a letter from an American girl living in China which was written a few weeks ago to Dr. David S. Muzzey, a member of the Editorial Board of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. The letter gives a number of interesting sidelights on life in war-torn China.

Dear Dr. Muzzey:

What seemed really right to start this letter was "Dear Muzzey," because you are known here as "Muzzey" and called nothing else. Of course, sometimes, to distinguish between the copies of Muzzey we have here, we call them "Muzzey one" and "Muzzey two," but that is not very often. You don't know how much we appreciate your book, *A History of Our Country*. In September 1941, six Americans here in the Canadian School started up an American history class under a Canadian teacher. We had no history books at the time except two books written for the sixth graders, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Book of Knowledge*, and the *World Book*. In October our first copy of Muzzey arrived, and great was the rejoicing. We made a timetable and each of us had his own time to study. . . .

I am new in the Canadian School, having evacuated here from Shanghai a year and a half ago. I was born in

China, but am an American citizen. My parents are missionaries under the Northern Presbyterian Board. I have lived in China 12 years and spent four in traveling around in America. . . . I have seen in the Canadian School a spirit that is not anywhere else I have been. The kids are exceptionally world-conscious. They have studied extensively the social problems everywhere. . . .

The school has its real headquarters in Chengtu, but three years ago it moved to Jenschow here, 60 miles away because of bombings. We are scattered over the hillside and living in six buildings. An old hospital building serves as the school and houses the principal's family and music room. A low bungalow which was once a women's ward has a large room used for church services and a manual training room. . . . We have our makeshift stage in the school. Last spring we put on "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The town of Jenschow is very small (for a Chinese town). There is a population of 3000. There are about two good stores where you can buy halfway decent cloth. (Cloth is all that is good.) Even these two stores were not there before the school moved down. Jenschow has no modern conveniences, as there are none

in west China. Our water is carried up from a well in the street, and, of course, has to be boiled before we drink it. We burn vegetable oil in pewter lamps for light, but also have one hour daylight-saving time to save on the expense. Our servants milk the cows, make our butter, smoke our ham, refine our sugar, make our yeast and postum. Because the bottom is falling out of the Chinese money, prices are going higher and higher. Mother finds herself paying out \$10,000 a month (Chinese money) to run the house. . . .

All our textbooks (notebooks, that is) are made of Chinese bamboo paper. It's not very easy to write on because the ink soaks in so, but no foreign paper can be bought anywhere. We are quite short of textbooks, so we have to share with each other very often. I never appreciated books until we came here and had a shortage of them. . . .

Having no movies or public amusements, we have to supply all our own fun. We have a person delegated to manage parties, and every Saturday night originality abounds. Sports are managed by another member of the Student Council. Likewise services are held every Wednesday night. Religion plays an important part in our life. I have never seen a school with less gossip, less quarreling, less disagreement, more democracy, and less jealousy. . . .

The community here is very musical. Right now Mother and the school doctor are having a great argument (with lots of laughing thrown in) as to how a certain piece ("Liebestraum," I think) should be played. We have four pianos in the school which 60 per cent of us play on. We also have an orchestra. I play the French horn in it, and my brother the clarinet. He can also play the piano. The fact is that everybody in the school—teachers, pupils, and all—can play.

I certainly do hope this letter gets to you O. K. Mail doesn't seem very certain nowadays. If you can spare enough time, nothing would thrill me (and the Canadian School) more than to hear from you. Anyway, all I want you to know is that I certainly am glad you wrote *A History of Our Country* for us. I used to hate history and pulled down D in it. But after studying it this year I like it better than any other subject.

Sincerely yours,  
Rebecca Terry

## Drive for War Funds Launched

In hundreds of towns and cities throughout the nation, the annual Community War Fund campaigns are now under way. Geared to provide for many new needs created by the war, the drives are pointing toward higher goals than ever before.

In one of the largest eastern cities, for example, the goal last year was \$2,000,000. This year it is \$4,141,000—more than twice as much. Since this city's budget for using the Community War Fund during the coming year is a good sample of what other places also intend to do, here are a few of the major items:

For United Service Organizations, both national and local, \$597,000 will be set aside. In the past the USO has conducted its own drive for funds, but now it is depending on receiving a share from community chests in every town and city. Its service in furnishing hospitality, recreation, and entertainment for men in the armed forces is well known to everyone.

Nearly \$400,000 of this city's community chest funds will be turned over to United Nations War Relief. Here, again, separate campaigns have been conducted from time to time for the benefit of British, Greek, Polish, Dutch, Russian, and Chinese war victims.



The sum of \$356,000 will be devoted to home front war services, such as supplementing the activities of the USO, which cannot possibly handle the task singlehandedly. The final major item—the largest of all—is over \$2,500,000 for local welfare. This latter need is as great as ever, and should not be forgotten in the confusion of wartime.

Not every town and city will divide up its funds in exactly these proportions, but on the whole these are the needs which will be met by the Community War Fund. Here, in a single drive, is an opportunity to contribute to every major cause except the American Red Cross.

### Answers to News Quiz

1. (b). 2. 500. 3. 530. 4. True. 5. Denmark. 6. Malta. 7. Mississippi. 8. They will be in the armed forces or in war work. 9. Prime Minister of South Africa. 10. Turin, in northern Italy. 11. False. 12. The Women's Reserve in the Coast Guard. 13. Stone and Roberts. (Stone was appointed by Coolidge in 1925; of course, President Roosevelt appointed him to his present position as Chief Justice. Roberts was appointed by Hoover in 1930.) 14. General Joseph W. Stilwell, now located in China.

## SMILES

"I have noticed one thing about blunt people."

"What is it?"

"They are the ones who generally come to the point most quickly."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Landlady: "Of course, I must ask you for a deposit."

New Tenant: "Certainly, here it is."

Landlady: "Thanks, and now do you want a receipt, or shall we just trust each other?"

—SELECTED

A professor at medical school asked a student how much of a certain drug should be administered to a patient, and the young man replied, "Five grains."

A minute later he raised his hand and said, "Professor, I would like to change my answer to that question."

"Never mind," said the prof, looking at his watch. "Your patient has been dead for 40 seconds."

—SELECTED

A milkman, after joining the Army, wrote back home from camp: "I sure do like this Army life. It's so nice to lie abed every morning until five-thirty."

—MONITOR

Dad: "How are you getting on at school?"

Son: "Fine. Fullback in football and half back in lessons."

—CLASSMATE

An American soldier in England was giving some illustrations of the size of his country. "You can board a train in the state of Texas at dawn," he said impressively, "and 24 hours later you'll still be in Texas."

"Yes," said one of his English listeners with feeling, "we've got trains like that here too."



NEWSPAPER PH

"We have a surprise for you, dear. Wilfred joined the Junior Commandos today."



# The Story of the Week



U. S. NAVY FROM ACME

HOW THE MARINES LANDED in the Solomons when they made their first attack. Troop-carrying barges zig-zag up to the beach on Florida Island to make a landing in the initial stages of the attack.

## War Fronts

The most important war news of the week came from the Egyptian front, where the British launched another major offensive against Marshal Rommel's German and Italian forces. This was the third major attempt since Italy entered the war in the summer of 1940 that the British have made to drive the Axis out of North Africa. In both previous attempts, British victories have been followed by defeats, the latest of which pushed them back to the very gates of Alexandria.

The offensive was launched along the 40-mile gap extending from El Alamein to the Qattara Depression. The British had long made plans for the offensive, having brought in reinforcements, reorganized their forces, and greatly strengthened their air power. They had for several weeks been increasing their aerial attacks upon Nazi supply lines from Italy, and during the last week or so, had bombed such vital Italian cities as Genoa, Turin, and Milan, which serve as depots for military supplies to Africa.

There was considerable speculation as to the full significance of the new drive in Africa. To many observers in London, it was more than an attempt to dislodge the Germans from their hold on Libya and part of Egypt. It was seen as a prelude to an invasion of the continent of Europe, through Italy, a plan which has long been advocated by certain military strategists who claim that it would be far easier to open the second front by way of Africa and Italy than through France or one of the countries of western Europe.

After more than 60 days of siege, Stalingrad still held out against the Germans. The Nazis brought up fresh reserves in what appeared a desperate attempt to take the Volga city before winter sets in. They had already experienced the first taste of winter in several days' fighting in mud, rain, and snow, which served as an aid to the Russians. Hand-to-hand fighting in the streets of Stalingrad last week was still indecisive and the outcome of one of the bloodiest battles of history was still in doubt.

Fighting in the Caucasus, 500 miles to the south of Stalingrad, continued indecisively. There, too, winter was

fast approaching and it appeared certain that Hitler's objectives for this year's campaign would not be realized, for the oil of the Caucasus still was not accessible to him and the Russian armies remained intact.

On the other side of the globe, in the Solomons, the long-awaited showdown between our forces and the Japanese seemed to be under way. It was reported that the Japanese had landed fresh troops on Guadalcanal, after several attempts to make landings had been frustrated by American planes. Bombers from New Guinea, 900 miles south of Guadalcanal, were supporting the American forces by repeated attacks upon Japanese shipping in waters surrounding the Solomons. Meanwhile, the American people were warned of a long and bitter struggle for control of the Solomons. The future course of the war in the Pacific may well depend upon the outcome of the battles which appear now in progress.

## Higher Taxes

Every citizen found out for himself last week why the tax bill on which Congress had been working for nearly 10 months is classed as the greatest in the nation's history. All the signs which had pointed to higher taxes were now borne out by figures in black and white.

The Treasury is now authorized to collect between \$7,000,000,000 and \$8,000,000,000 in new taxes, making a total of \$25,000,000,000 which the government expects to obtain from its citizens next year.

The largest sum, of course, will be paid through income taxes. Many thousands of persons who have never paid an income tax before will be required to do so now, and those who have paid one formerly will begin to pay several times as much. A married man earning up to \$2,000 a year and without dependent children will pay about seven times what he paid last year. One earning between \$2,000 and \$5,000 will pay about two and a half times as much.

Corporation taxes have also been raised, and there will be higher taxes on transportation tickets, tobacco, liquor, communications services, and other items.

Great as the total revenue will be, it is far short of the government's spending for war. During the finan-

cial year which ended last June 30, a total of \$32,000,000,000 was spent. The present fiscal year, ending next June 30, will see the spending of \$80,000,000,000. The gap between taxes and expenditures must therefore be closed through borrowing—through the sale of war bonds and stamps.

## Chilean Shake-up

Chile's new cabinet is expected to do much toward repairing the damage done to relations with the United States by pro-Axis members of the old cabinet. The most encouraging change, from the viewpoint of the United Nations, was the replacement of the pro-Axis foreign minister. His successor, as well as the other new members, is more inclined to take the action necessary to assure Chile's cooperation with the rest of the Western Hemisphere on anti-Axis measures. Argentina will thus be the only nation in the Americas which is not in line with this policy (see last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER).

President Juan Antonio Ríos' decision to form the new cabinet is considered to be the direct result of Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles' recent rebuke to Argentina and Chile for harboring Axis agents and thus undermining the cause of the United Nations. While resentful, the Chilean government was faced with growing protests from its own people, and the shake-up resulted.

At the same time, President Ríos said that Chile would soon sever relations with the Axis governments—the step most desired by the United Nations. The Chilean government also immediately banished three known Nazi spies. And as soon as he has his new policies well installed, President Ríos may probably be expected to visit the United States and confer with President Roosevelt, the trip which he postponed when Mr. Welles delivered his sharp remarks.

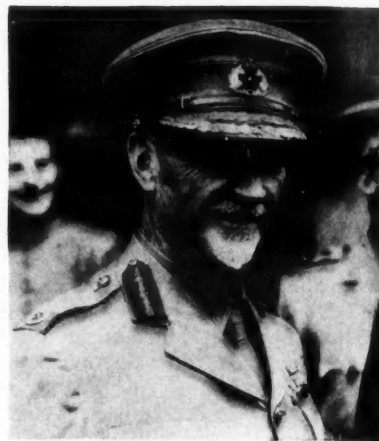
## The General Speaks

Britain's Parliament observed the recent anniversary of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar by listening to

the words of one of the Empire's most distinguished soldier-statesmen. He was General Jan C. Smuts, who has been a leading military and government figure in the Union of South Africa for so many years that he is almost an institution. During the last war, he worked valiantly to assure the protection of Africa, and later he fought just as hard for a world federation to maintain permanent peace.

Still vigorous, the old veteran spoke challengingly to the British legislators. Urging that strong support be sent to Russia, he reminded them that Lord Nelson had pulled victory out of defeat by seeking out Napoleon's forces with a bold offensive.

Because the Nazis are bleeding to death in Russia, he said, now is the time to strike. In his view, Germany



ACME

Jan C. Smuts

will never be able to regain the strength it has lost, and is thus ripe for attacking. For reducing the enemy to this state, General Smuts gave high praise to the fighting abilities of the Russians.

## Germany's "Partner"

France is once more demonstrating her unwillingness to be a partner of Germany, despite all the efforts of Pierre Laval and other collaborationists to make her one. The French chief of government has been striving mightily to fulfill Nazi demands for skilled workers, and time and again has failed. Now he has until the last of this month to send 150,000—and 500 Gestapo agents are reported to be helping him with the "recruiting" problem. Having failed to volunteer, French workers will be threatened by force.

Meeting insistent German demands for manpower is not the only problem confronting France. Her vital base at Dakar, on the west coast of Africa, continues to figure in speculation about new offensives. This crucial spot, which boasts the best harbor between Gibraltar and Brazil, would be of immense advantage to either the United Nations or the Axis. Through Admiral Darlan, commander of her armed forces, France has announced that she will resist any threats to Dakar. It was significant that his warning came after Germany's loud cries that Dakar was in danger.

Neither Britain nor the United States has given official notice to the furor about Dakar, but both are known to have built up considerable

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
He also serves



strength at vital points in West Africa. These forces would apparently be in a position to move toward the base if the need arises.

## Halsey Takes Over

Vice-Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., inherited a tough job last week when he succeeded Vice-Admiral Robert L. Ghormley as commander of U. S. naval forces in the South Pacific where the critical Solomon Islands action is taking place.

Although the Navy Department gave no explanations in replacing Ghormley, it was apparent that he had produced unsatisfactory results. It is true that he had placed Navy and Marine forces in a position which made it seem possible that the Japanese could be ousted from the Solomons. With help from Australia and elsewhere, these forces destroyed at least 365 enemy planes and damaged or destroyed about 50 ships.

Much later, however, it was revealed that one Australian and three American cruisers, five destroyers, and four transports were lost. Heavy Japanese reinforcements poured in to threaten the precarious American foothold in the Solomons, making it strictly a defensive position.

Whether the reversal was entirely the fault of Vice-Admiral Ghormley is impossible to tell. Nor can it be foretold that Halsey will be able to retrieve the situation and turn it once again into an offensive possibility. But it is encouraging that the new commander is a tough, aggressive personality, with distinguished exploits already to his credit in this war.

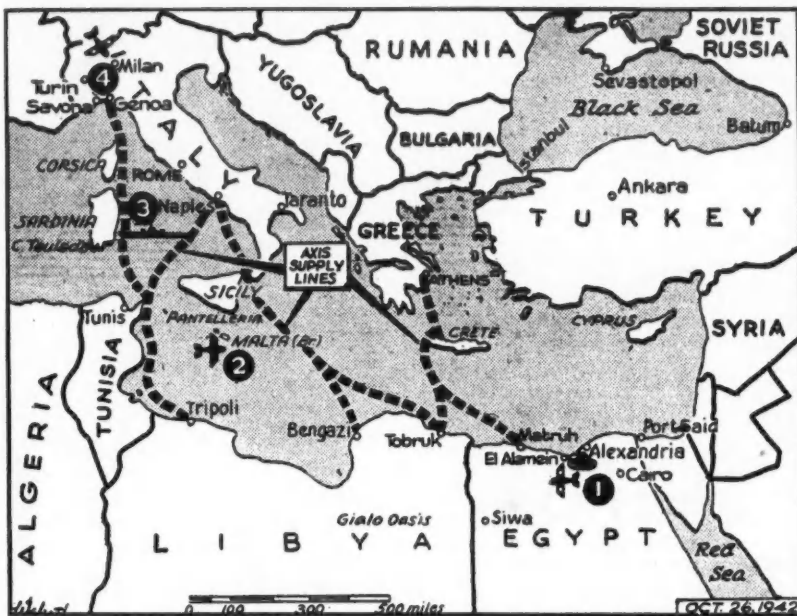
## Elections at Hand

Voters will go to the polls tomorrow, November 3, to elect governors, local officials, and the Congress which will serve during the next two years. One-third of the seats in the Senate and all the seats in the House of Representatives are at stake.

How many of these will change hands is still unpredictable at the very last minute. Due to a general lack of interest in this year's elections, anything might happen. Another circumstance which is expected to keep down the vote is the migration of industrial workers, thousands of whom have gone to jobs away from their home states. The same is true of the millions in the armed forces. While many in both groups can take advantage of provisions made for absentee voting in most states, this procedure at best imposes difficulties which are not met in voting at regular polls.



U. S. NAVY  
Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.



**AFRICAN FRONT.** Near El Alamein (1) Allied troops and armored forces split the Axis front; off Sardinia (3) an Axis convoy was attacked by British submarines; Milan (4) and other Italian cities from which Rommel is supplied were pounded by Allied planes; at Malta (2) Axis planes continued raids.

Although for a time polls of opinion showed that the Republicans stood to gain a large number of seats in the House, more recent surveys indicate that their margin has diminished considerably. A late Gallup Poll shows that the Democrats will win 245 to 265 of the seats, while the Republicans will take 167 to 187.

## Starvation in China

The New York Times, in an editorial last week calls attention to one of the grim realities of war—mass starvation. It describes the extent of this disaster in one province of China:

The Province of Honan, in China, south of the Yellow River, has a population about equal to that of Mexico, about six times that of Denmark or Finland, about half again as large as Hungary, nearly three times that of the City of New York. In short, it has about 20,000,000 people. About one-third of this number, it is reported, are "near death from hunger." In normal times help might reach the sufferers by way of the Yellow River or by two railways, one running along the river, the other running from north to south through the province. These are not normal times, for the Japanese are in

China. Japanese guns are in position north of the river. Refugee trains, westward bound, are being shelled constantly.

Numerically and humanly, this is just as great a disaster as would be the starvation of New York City's entire population. We cannot realize its magnitude because it is so far away and because we may somehow have gained the impression that the Chinese are "used to famine." A call for help may come soon. It should. We can no more tolerate a famine in China than we can tolerate one on Manhattan or in Iowa. It is all our business. This principle is what we are fighting for and this is what the Nazis are fighting against.

## Correction

Under the picture of President Roosevelt witnessing the launching of the cargo ship *Joseph N. Teal*, which appeared in the October 12 issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*, it was stated that the occasion took place at the Vancouver, Washington, shipyards of Henry Kaiser. Instead, it occurred at Portland, Oregon. The misinformation was supplied by the photo agency which distributed the picture.

## News Items in Brief

In an undisclosed part of South Africa, natives are turning out ammunition for the United Nations in a factory equipped with American machinery. Although these people only recently came from the continent's interior, where modern machinery was unknown to them, they are working with speed and efficiency at their new jobs.

News came from "somewhere in England" a few days ago that America has a new weapon—a long-range, hard-hitting, and fast-firing gun. Capable of firing two shells a minute, this 155-millimeter cannon has a barrel some 40 feet long, and it can hurl 95-pound shells for a distance of 15 miles with great accuracy.

The American Red Cross announces that it plans to equip and operate a fleet of "clubmobiles," each of which will carry motion pictures, musical and athletic equipment, and a library of books. The clubmobiles will make the rounds of small American posts at out-of-the-way places in Great Britain.

"A modern, four-lane divided highway that will surpass any existing

highway in length of uninterrupted travel possible is slated for postwar construction in New York state," the Federal Works Agency announced a few days ago. The two traffic lanes in each direction will be separated by a mall, entrance to the highway will be permitted only at certain points, and neither railroads nor other highways will cross it at the same level as the new road.

For some time, the government has pushed the collection of discarded tin cans in a number of communities, and last week it ordered collections to begin in more than 400 towns and cities of 15 states. Detinning plants use chemicals and electricity to remove the tin from the cans, and the metal which remains—mostly steel—is sent to blast furnaces as scrap.

There is plenty of give and take in the war at sea. Since Pearl Harbor, it was reported last week, the enemy has sunk more than 500 United Nations' ships in the Western Atlantic. But it was also disclosed that the United States and British Navies have bagged 530 German, Italian, and Japanese U-boats in the long and bitter ocean warfare.

## News Quiz of the Week

(Answers on page 3, column 4)

1. We hear that the monsoons are ending in Burma. Would you say that monsoons are (a) Japanese attacks with motorized equipment; (b) heavy rains; (c) native celebrations in honor of the harvest; or (d) religious observances in honor of the moon?
2. Is the number of ships sunk in the Western Atlantic by Axis U-boats nearest 100, 350, 500, or 1,000?
3. While we're on the subject of sinkings, would you say that the number of Axis U-boats sunk by the United Nations is nearest 53, 350, 530, or 730?
4. True or false: Guadalcanal has the only good airfield in the Solomon Islands?
5. King Christian X was injured recently in a fall from his horse. Is he king of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, or Finland?
6. What spot on earth has been bombed most heavily and most continuously since the beginning of the war?
7. In what state were there recently three lynchings in one week?
8. Donald Nelson, WPB chief, says that fully a third of the population of the United States will be doing what in 1943?
9. Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts recently appeared before the British Parliament to call for a speedy offensive. Who is this man?
10. A few days ago the RAF made heavy raids on the Italian city known as the "Detroit of Europe." What was it?
11. True or false: In the general elections tomorrow we will elect all the



THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS  
Gee! I'm grown up!

members of the House of Representatives, and all the members of the Senate.

12. A bill now in Congress would create an organization known as the "Warcogs." What is it?

13. Which of the present members of the Supreme Court were not appointed by President Roosevelt?

14. "Uncle Joe" is the nickname for what well-known American general?

## The American Observer

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## Issues of "People's War"

(Concluded from page 1)

others after the war is over." "This doubt," continued Mr. Willkie, "kills their enthusiastic participation on our side."

In fact, one of the crying needs of the moment, according to Mr. Willkie, is a determination on the part of all the United Nations to make this truly a "people's war," a war to raise living standards of the common man, to remove many of the abuses of the past; a war for independence among peoples who have heretofore not enjoyed complete freedom. As Mr. Willkie stated at Chungking:

"Now, without the real support of these common people, the winning of the war will be enormously difficult. The winning of the peace will be nearly impossible. This war is not simply a technical problem for task forces. It is also a war for men's minds. We must organize on our side not simply the sympathies but also the active, aggressive, offensive spirit of nearly three-fourths of the people of the world who live in South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia. . . .

"Men need more than arms to fight and win this kind of war. They need enthusiasm for the future and a conviction that the flags they fight under are in bright, clean colors. The truth is that we as a nation have not made up our minds as to what kind of a world we want to speak for when victory comes."

### A "People's War"

In speaking out boldly about matters which must be decided by the United Nations, Mr. Willkie lines himself up with Vice-President Henry A. Wallace and Undersecretary of State Welles, both of whom have emphasized the fact that this war must be more than a return to the old order, a return to conditions as

merely in the United Nations but also in Germany and Italy and Japan."

Mr. Sumner Welles was even more explicit in outlining objectives for the postwar world in a speech delivered some time ago. "The age of imperialism is ended," he said. He emphasized the importance of ending the domination of one people by another and of raising living standards for people all over the world. One of our postwar aims, he declared, was to find means whereby the goods which modern industry is capable of producing can be more widely distributed to the common people of the world.

While none of the spokesmen for achieving a better world order after the war is over has drawn up a detailed blueprint of the reforms which must be adopted, it is possible to list many of the objectives and problems which must be faced in the future. Here are some of the problems:

### Problems of the Peace

1. China. Shall a completely free and independent China be set up, to rank with the first-class powers of the world? In the past, neither we nor the British have treated China as an equal. We have demanded and obtained concessions from her. Only recently did we agree to end the practice of extraterritoriality (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, October 19). Will we be willing to go even further after the war and remove all obstacles in the way of her becoming a full-fledged partner in the family of nations?

2. India. The future of India raises some of the most delicate and complex problems confronting the United Nations today. There is no



THE PEOPLE, symbolized by this Belgian refugee mother and her three children, have the most vital stake in this war.

whose flag they lived before the war? These are questions of the first importance. Mr. Willkie is firm in his belief that a way must be found to give them full independence. It is the world's job, he said, "to find some system for helping colonial peoples who join the United Nations' cause to become free and independent nations. We must set up firm time-tables under which they can work out and train governments of their own choosing, and we must establish ironclad guarantees, administered by all the United Nations jointly, that they shall not slip back into colonial status."

4. World Order. How are the national boundaries to be drawn when the peacemakers settle down to their task? Shall Europe be restored as it was before Hitler unleashed the dogs of war? Will the old boundaries of Poland and Czechoslovakia be restored? How are the weak nations to be protected from future aggression? Will some international organization be established, something like the League of Nations, to maintain the peace?

### International Organization

These are questions of the first importance, but questions which must be squarely faced. There is a growing body of opinion which feels that if lasting peace is to be established, all nations must be willing to yield part of their sovereignty to a higher international organization in the interest of permanent peace. No matter how the boundaries of Europe are drawn, it is argued, the seeds of war will always exist if each nation is allowed to pursue its own objectives unopposed by a higher authority. This point is argued forcefully by the authors of a recent booklet, *Uniting Today for Tomorrow*, published by the Foreign Policy Association:

"The phrase 'sovereign rights' raises a question of great importance. Taken literally, this phrase would imply that every European national group could and should return to unrestricted statehood. . . . It was the conflict of unlimited national sovereignties that paved the way for the present world catastrophe. Restoring the old states' system would certainly not make it easy for the nations to collaborate in the economic field, or achieve 'freedom from fear.' . . . If postwar reconstruction is to succeed, the victor powers will have to devise and maintain a system of international cooperation in which the member states will inevitably

have to surrender part of their individual sovereignty. Only if this is done will it be possible for national groups living in a world scrambled by science and technology to enjoy the blessings of liberty and peace."

5. Equality of opportunity. In our own country, there are certain racial groups which do not enjoy full educational, political, and economic equality. How are we going to give the Negro, for example, the equality of opportunity which is inherent in a "people's war"? How are we going to afford employment opportunities to all persons able to work?

Perhaps the great issue of the future will hinge upon the answers which are to be given to these questions. There will be many, in this country and abroad, who will argue that once the Axis is defeated we should settle down to our old ways, should restore conditions much as they were before the war. In particular, there will be a demand on the part of many Americans that the United States withdraw from participation in world affairs; that the rest of the world be told "to stew in its own juice." As President Roosevelt said in his last fireside chat, there will be some who will feel "that the future of civilization can jolly well take care of itself insofar as we are concerned."

No issue in our time will have a greater bearing upon the future safety and happiness of the American people than the type of peace settlement which is made when the war is over. We won the last war only to lose the peace, which accounts in large measure for the catastrophe in which we now find ourselves. We are today challenged with the responsibility of seeking, in the words of the President, "the kind of victory that will guarantee that our grandchildren can grow and, under God, may live their lives, free from the constant threat of invasion, destruction, slavery, and violent death."

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PRESS ASSN.

WENDELL WILLKIE is welcomed to China by Mme. Chiang Kai-shek who translates a song sung by some of her war orphans at a welcoming tea party given the American visitor. The song said, "Welcome, welcome, Willkie." While in China Willkie strongly advocated recognition of the war as a "people's war."

they were before 1939. In a widely publicized address given some months ago, Mr. Wallace referred to this as a "people's war," and voiced certain of the aspirations of the people who are fighting it. "This is the century of the common man," he said, and spoke as follows of the objectives which must be sought in the peace settlement to come:

"The peace must mean a better standard of living for the common man not merely in the United States and England but also in India, Russia, China, and Latin America—not

easy solution to the Indian problem, but can some way be found to raise India to the level of a free and independent nation, either as a dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations or by severing all ties with Britain? In any plans for the postwar world, the problem of India will loom large.

3. Colonies. What about the millions of people, mostly in Asia and Africa, who live under the domination of some foreign power? Shall they be granted independence? Shall they be returned to the nation under



# Germany's Home Front

(Concluded from page 1)

serve? One explanation is that it is part of Hitler's campaign of fear among his own soldiers and civilians. He can say that he has taken the action in reprisal for brutal treatment of German soldiers held by the Allies. As Barnet Nover, writing last week in the *Washington Post*, interprets the action:

The Geneva convention has provided a mantle of protection for Germans taken prisoner by the Allies as well as, though by no means as satisfactorily, for Allied soldiers taken prisoners by the Axis. If Germany denounces that convention the Allies will be released from all obligations to carry it out. The war will then enter a stage of brutality never before witnessed in civilized times.

Yet this is precisely what the Nazis may desire. They want the Allies to treat their prisoners as brutally as they appear to be prepared to treat Allied prisoners in the Reich. They want to be able to tell the German people that anyone unfortunate enough to be taken prisoner by the enemy should be written off as doomed.

This explanation would fit in nicely with the propaganda issued by Goebbels for it would tend to instill a deep fear into the hearts of the German soldiers and civilians. They would fear the consequences of a defeat, fear that they would be annihilated, completely destroyed, if they do not win the war. The purpose would be to inspire soldiers to fight to death rather than to surrender, even though the odds seemed hopeless.

## A Gloomy Winter

There are many indications that steps such as those taken by Nazi leaders are essential to bolster the sagging morale of the German people. They are now confronted by a second winter in Russia. The prospects of victory which have been dangled before them by Hitler and his spokesmen are as remote as ever. There seems to be a growing realization among the German people of the bitter hatred which prevails throughout the occupied countries and throughout the world toward them and their leaders.

The picture of the future which the German sees is far from heart-warming. Coupled with the repeated failures of the German army to subdue the Russian foe are the increasing air raids by American and British bombers. At the moment, there is no chance of striking back, for the German air force is tied down in Russia and has not been able to strike at the British Isles. The war is being brought directly home to the German people in a way in which they have never experienced war before.

## Food Situation

Despite the promises of Goering that the German people will not starve, the food situation in the Reich is far from bright. The average German has been told that this winter he can have only enough coal to heat one room of his house. Most of the new warm clothing is being sent to the men at the front and he must get along with what he has, however threadbare it may be. He will have less bread this winter and only a little

more than half as much meat and fats as he had in 1939 before the war began.

The meat rations of the average German are less than one-third of what ours will be when meat rationing goes into effect in this country. If he gets an egg or a little fruit once a month, a green vegetable and milk once or twice a week, he is fortunate. He gets enough food to satisfy his appetite at the moment of eating, but he soon gets hungry because of the unbalanced nature of his diet.

The German food situation has not yet reached the point of scarcity of the final days of World War I, but it is rapidly approaching that level. Even Propaganda Minister Goebbels has admitted that the English are now far better fed than the Germans. While it may be true that the Germans will be the last to starve in Europe, there is a limit to the amount of food they can drain from the occupied countries. With the major part of industry in the Reich and the occupied countries devoted to production of war weapons, farm implements are not being turned out and the farms of Europe are not yielding their maximum output.

In many other respects, the German picture is far from encouraging to the average citizen of that country. It is true that vast territories have been overrun and brought under the control of the Nazis. In Russia, for example, some of the richest agricultural and industrial areas are now under the swastika. But the loot from these lands is far short of the Nazi expectations. The Russians methodically put into practice their "scorched earth" policy, destroying everything in the regions they were forced to evacuate. It will take some time for the Germans to realize benefits from these areas.

## Other Troubles

Another internal weakness of the Reich is the transportation system. The railroad system has been placed under a terrific strain during the three years of war. Supplies have had to be transported over long distances to the fighting fronts. And yet so much manpower and material has had to be concentrated upon the war industries that the railroads have



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH  
"Evidence is being relentlessly piled up"—President Roosevelt



NAZI PROPAGANDA MACHINE tells the German people, by radio and press, that all is going well, but in their hearts they know it is not so.

had to be neglected. Equipment has not been repaired as it should have been. American and British air forces, aware of this weakness, have pounded away at important railway centers.

It is impossible to determine how much damage the raids of the last few months have done to German industry and transportation. The effects of bombardment are not immediately discernible. For example, the devastating raids upon such industrial centers as Cologne and Essen do not result in an immediate shortage of weapons at the front because of the time lag between production and delivery of war materials at the fighting fronts.

However that may be, it is a well-known fact that Germany is confronted by many serious internal difficulties, not the least of which is a shortage of manpower. The growing pressure which has been brought to bear upon France for workers to go to Germany is but one indication of the seriousness of this problem. And it is only reasonable to assume that the workers who have remained at their jobs in German industry are less efficient than they once were as a result of years of inhumanly long working hours, undernourishment, and general strain.

While the internal situation in Germany may be extremely encouraging from our standpoint, it would be a tragic mistake to assume that there will be an automatic collapse from within or that the people will automatically rise up and overthrow the Nazi regime. Predictions of internal collapse have been frequent, even before the outbreak of war. In fact, it was these predictions which were at least partially responsible for the failure of the rest of the world to take the Nazi menace seriously in the days of so-called peace. It is even more important today that the world be on guard against being lulled into a sense of false security by predictions of economic collapse or political revolution in Germany.

## Political Warfare

However desperate conditions may become in the Reich, the Nazi government will goad the people on by telling them that their plight is better than defeat. The Nazis came to power by playing upon the emotions of the German people, by convincing them that they were dealt with unjustly after the last war. They are now telling them that defeat in this war will be infinitely worse. The line of Goebbels is typical of the fear-inspiring propaganda: "It is a question not only of our right to live but

of the very possibility of our continuing to live."

According to many students of the war, there is only one way the United Nations can take advantage of the present discontent in Germany and can offset the Nazi propaganda of fear. That is by making it clear to the German people, by short-wave broadcasts, pamphlets dropped from the air, and other channels, that the Allied purpose is not the destruction of the German people but rather the crushing of the Nazis who were responsible for the war and for their own present predicament. It should be made clear to the German people, it is argued, that their own Nazi leaders are their greatest enemies and will lead to their destruction more quickly than will the United Nations.

## Danger of Retaliation

In the campaign of fear which Hitler is now waging among the German people, we would be playing into his hands by resorting to retaliation in the treatment of prisoners of war, according to many observers. We would be merely proving a point which Hitler is trying to make to the soldiers and people of his country. If we conduct our affairs wisely, writes Walter Lippmann, we will not allow Hitler "to provoke us into a competition in atrocities and then commit us to helping him stiffen the morale of his discouraged satellites and of his own troops. . . . For our own self-respect, and as the wisest military policy as well, we must continue to assure troops who surrender that fair and honorable treatment which means that, as they come over to us, they come among men where the rights and the amenities of civilization are faithfully preserved." If we act wisely, continues Mr. Lippmann, Hitler will not be able "to terrorize the German nation into the belief that they are irretrievably and inextricably implicated in the crimes of the Nazi regime."

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BOEING B-17 (FLYING FORTRESS). "A tried and thoroughly tested model with an unequalled combat record, the B-17 is essentially a high-altitude, long-range bomber designed for precision destruction of restricted targets."



MARTIN B-26 (MARTIAN). "This is also a battle-tested plane in general comparable with the characteristics of the B-25. No nation but the United States, so far as is known, has so efficient a plane in its class."



BELL P-39 (AIRACOBRA). "A part sharer in the criticism heaped on the P-40 (not enough altitude) the P-39 has roughly the same limitations and the same positive virtues. Developments give promise of much improved performance."

## OWI Reports on American Airplanes

JUST how good are America's fighting planes? Ever since Pearl Harbor the American public has been searching for an answer to this question as it has watched Army and Navy planes enter the test of combat.

We now have a solid and authoritative answer to the question in the form of a report issued by the Office of War Information. Parts of it, particularly concerning specific types of planes, have already been given wide publicity in the press. Other sections, which give a better understanding of air power and of what we are doing to build up our own, deserve more attention than they have received. We are reprinting some of them below:

"A balanced air force is the goal for which the United States and all other warring powers, friendly or enemy, are aiming and have been aiming. To compare this with a balanced ground army is exact. No campaigns in this specialized war have been won by tanks alone or by cavalry or any other arm. It is a military truism, with which the public is now abundantly familiar, that victory goes to the side with the best balance for a given situation, best employed.

"Similarly, no war in the air will be won with an air force concentrated on the fighter, the bomber, or any other craft. The complete air force must be balanced. It needs *fighters* [italics ours] of various types capable of operating with maximum effectiveness through all the levels of air operation. It must have short-range, fast-climbing *interceptors* for defense against enemy bombers, long-range heavily armed *slugger* types for the protection of its own bombers.

"The complete air force needs *bombers* for best operation in all the specializations of that decisive activity; *dive bombers* for attacks on enemy (surface) craft, for cooperation with ground troops and for other

purposes; *torpedo planes* for attacks on enemy shipping and warcraft. It calls for long-range *reconnaissance craft*, for *light and medium bombers* capable of a variety of work, especially low-altitude strafing. It needs *transports* for its service operations, aircraft for the taking and developing of pictures, planes for coastal patrol and offshore operation against enemy shipping.

"No nation ever has attained this development in its fullness—although the United Nations in their combined air squadrons are close to it—because no group of military men conceivably could anticipate all the demands to be made by war. In reaching toward the ideal, the United States air forces also have been hamstrung in the past by disagreement in their own fighting services as to the weight and power to be wielded by air power.

"In spite of this, the United States went into the war with a well-integrated air force; not all of it distributed with maximum effect. The versatility of many of our types, notably our heavy bombers, made it possible to use one class of aircraft for a variety of purposes; for example: the employment of modified bombers as transports. Yet it is characteristic of a great deal of the criticism leveled against United States planes that no consideration was taken of the concept of balanced air force.

"For the United States, the requirements of this war are more varied than they are for any other combatant. Today aircraft of the Army Air Forces, for example, are in daily operation against the enemy on many fronts with variations in climate and battle situations that are the severest possible test of military aircraft.

"It is a truism that no military aircraft are perfect, even for their designed specialty. The measure of their excellence is relative; it is the

score of their showing against the enemy. Since not every aircraft type has been tried yet in every theater—some because they are obviously unsuitable, some because they are not available yet in sufficient quantities—a full appraisal of their capabilities is not yet possible. . . . But on the basis of 10 months of war, a fairly complete summary, subject to this limitation, can be made.

"(1) The Navy went into the war with considerable quantities of aircraft that were not of the latest type, and unquestionably suffered losses that could have been avoided had the latest equipment been available. But secret battle reports which have been examined by the Office of War Information show that the latest floating-base aircraft of the Navy are, when compared plane for plane with the planes of other navies, superior in all types.

"(2) In battle areas in the Pacific where it has had its most complete trial, Army flying equipment hardly can be said to have had a fair trial in the early days of the war. The disruption caused by the surprise Japanese attack and the necessity of retiring to bases inadequate to the technical demands of aircraft operation imposed conditions that no aircraft could meet fully. Yet in the Pacific area, as in China, the over-all battle score of the Army aircraft has been much better than the enemy's.

"(3) In the vital European theater, our newest fighters have not been fully tried up to now. Yet appraisal of our older fighter types—the Bell P-39 and the Curtiss P-40—compels the conclusion that they are not right for operation under today's high-altitude tactics in England. Admitted deficiencies in their performance makes them unsuitable. Both are outclassed in the high-altitude field by the British *Spitfire* and the German *Messerschmitt 109* and *Focke-Wulf 190*. But it is one of the

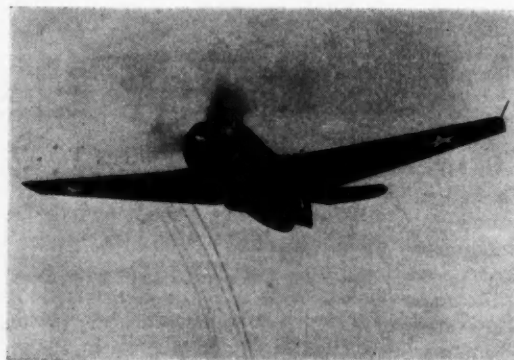
apparent paradoxes of aircraft performance that the P-39 has proven a splendid weapon on the Russian and Aleutian fronts, and that the P-40 is a first-line fighter in Egypt able to slug it out with the *Messerschmitt* on substantially even terms. This is due to the peculiarities of the tactical situations in these theaters.

"(4) Two newer fighter types, the twin-engined Lockheed P-38 (*Lightning*) and the single-engined Republic P-47 (*Thunderbolt*), are in production and show great promise as high-altitude pursuit planes. Yet the public should be warned (a) that neither plane is the complete answer to the fighter problem (probably no plane ever will be) and (b) that neither has been tested adequately in battle.

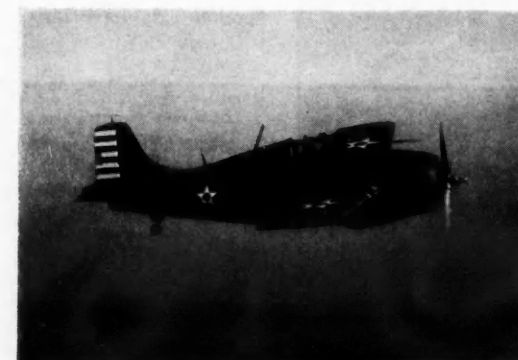
"(5) The Army's four-motored bombers have proved superior in their categories in all theaters. The Consolidated B-24 (*Liberator*) has been fully tested in the European theater and its splendid performance there and in other areas (notably the Middle East) and its general characteristics indicate that it will make a record parallel to that of the B-17 (*Flying Fortress*) wherever it is employed.

"(6) United States medium and light bombers, part of the bombardment specialization peculiar to this country (as a result of its earlier preoccupation with defense of our shores only), are the best in the world. They have been tested in all theaters. United States Scout bombers, product of the Navy's long-time development of this destructive art, are also without peers among single-engined dive bombers.

"(7) The firepower and protection of United States fighting aircraft (guns, armor, and leakproof fuel tanks) are equal in all cases to the best our Allies and the enemy have in the air, and in some cases are decidedly superior."



GRUMMAN TBF (AVENGER). "Made its battle debut at Midway. A bigger, more powerful and in all respects more advanced airplane, the TBF is the best carrier-based torpedo plane so far seen in action in the war."



GRUMMAN F-4-F (WILDCAT). "The Navy's standard fighter, the F-4-F is the best carrier fighter now in service. Powered with an air-cooled engine, with two-speed supercharger, it has altitude performance close to the Zero."



REPUBLIC P-47 (THUNDERBOLT). "Powered by one of the largest air-cooled engines, the P-47 has been thoroughly tested, is in service and in production. It is turbo-supercharged, heavily armed. Its trial by battle is not far off."